Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), Kerala Rare Earths & Minerals Ltd. (KRML) and Cochin Minerals & Rutiles Ltd. (CNRL) for forming a Joint venture company for setting up a mining and minerals seperation plant based upon Chavara Kayamkulam deposits. As a foltow-up action, a Project Report on mining and mineral separation has been furnished by KRML to IREL. A draft joint venture agreement has also been received by IREL for scrutiny and comments.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the Government of Kerala and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nuclear Energy Corporation

886. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will tue PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state**:**

(a) whether Government propose to set up new corporations on nuclear energy based on light water reactors from Russia and France;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) At present there is no proposal to set up new corporations for setting up Light Water Reactors.

Revamping of Post Office Saving Bank facility

887. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to revamp the Post Office Saving Bank facility te offer more value-added banking services to the public considering the phenomenal growth in the small savings sector and of the advantage the postal department enjoys through a nation-wide network of post offices;

(b) whether the Department of Posts have entered into a tie-up with IDB1/UTI banks to offer such services across the Post Office Saving Bank counters; and